



News for Immediate Release
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Tests Indicate Trapper Slough Levee Material
Not Hazardous, But Further Study Warranted

SACRAMENTO - Soil and water tests conducted by the Department of Water Resources indicate that fill material used to raise the Trapper Slough Levee during the Jones Tract flood emergency contains levels of elements such as barium, copper, and zinc that are well below the hazardous threshold but may have the potential to exceed State water quality objectives. Concentrations are far below the levels that would constitute hazardous material.

The tests were conducted in response to concerns that soil used to raise the Trapper Slough Levee might be strongly acidic and might contain environmentally harmful levels of barium, copper, lead, and zinc. These concerns arose because the soil used to raise the levee was purchased from the Port of Stockton, and some dredge material held by the Port contains elevated levels of these elements.

Test results show moderate acidity and the presence of some constituents that may potentially be of concern. The combination of moderately acidic conditions with the presence of copper and other constituents raises the concern that this combination could potentially result in leaching of these constituents into Delta waterways. The Department of Water Resources will continue to consult with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Port of Stockton to determine whether this material could have an impact on the Delta environment, identify the conditions under which an impact might occur, and develop an appropriate response.

Other contacts: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Bill Marshall (916) 464-4670; Port of Stockton, Tom Trexler (949) 400-8385.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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